

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ISO-00 AID-20 OMB-01 DPW-01 IO-14

CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

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TRSE-00 FEA-02 SCI-06 ACDA-19 SAM-01 DRC-01 /215 W

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P R 161215Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5780

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

USIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMCONSUL UDORN

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

USMISSION USUN

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

CINCPAC

CINCPACFLT

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CINCUSARPAC

DIA WASHDC
CGFMFPAC
CGUSARSUPTHAI
CNO
COMNAVINTCOM
COMSEVENTHFLT
COMUSMACTHAI
7/13 AF
7TH PSYOPS
COMUSSAG
III MAF
CINCPACAF

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 PHNOM PENH 5393

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT,PINS, PFOR, MOPS, CB, ECON
SUBJECT: KHMER REPORT - APRIL 16,1974

GENERAL

1. THE KHMER NEW YEAR PUSHED POLITICS INFLATION, AND EVEN THE WAR TEMPORARILY INTO THE BACKGROUND FOR MANY KHMER THIS WEEK. ALTHOUGH A FEW ENEMY ROUNDS FELL IN PHNOM PENH'S SOUTHERN SUBURBS ON THREE DAYS OF THE HOLIDAY PERIOD, THE ATMOSPHERE IN THE CAPITAL CITY WAS GENERALLY TRANQUIL AND AT TIMES MARKEDLY FESTIVE. THE COASTAL CITY OF KAMPOT, ON THE OTHER HAND, REMAINED UNDER HEAVY ENEMY PRESSURE AND ONLY AT THE END OF THE REPORTING PERIOD WERE THE FANK ABLE TO EXPAND SLIGHTLY THE SOUTHERN CITY'S NARROW PERIMETER. AS THE YEAR OF THE TIGER OPENED, FANK FORCES ALSO INITIATED AN OPERATION TO CLEAR THE ENEMY FROM THE BASSAC RIVER REGION SIX TO EIGHT KILOMETERS SOUTH OF PHNOM PENH, WHERE ENEMY FORCES FORCED EVACUATION OF SEVERAL SMALL FANK POSITIONS AND FIRED THE HOLIDAY ROUNDS ON THE CAPITAL. SIHANOUK SPENT THE NEW YEAR IN PYONGYANG WHERE HE MANAGED TO UPSTAGE THE "IN-COUNTRY LEADERSHIP" (ON TOURING THE PROVINCES OF CHINA) WITH BITTER AND BELLICOSE STATEMENTS AIMED AS MUCH AT THE U.S. AS AT THE GKR.

POLITICAL (INTERNAL)
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2. KHMER NEW YEAR (APRIL 13-15) PRODUCED MESSAGES FROM PRESIDENT LON NOL, MOHANIKAY SECT SUPREME PATRIARCH HUOT TAT AND FANK C-IN-C SOSTHENE FERNANDEZ ALL APPEALING TO THE OTHER SIDE TO REJOIN THE NATIONAL COMMUNITY. LON NOL URGED "THOSE STILL DECEIVED BY ENEMY PROPAGANDA" TO RALLY; SOSTHENE IN AN ORDER OF THE DAY APPEALED TO "CAMBODIANS ON THE OTHER SIDE TO STOP FIGHTING

AGAINST FANK AND RETURN TO THE NATIONAL COMMUNITY ... TO DRIVE THE VC/NVA OUT OF OUR TERRITORY;" AND HIS EMINENCE SOUGHT TO "STIR THE CONSCIENCES OF THE KHMER ROUGE AND KHMER 'RUMDOH, TO REJOIN THE NATIONAL COMMUNITY TO KICK THE AGGRESSORS (VC/NVA) OUT OF THE COUNTRY."

3. SOSTHENE'S ORDER ALSO NOTED THAT DESPITE MUCH PROGRESS FANK STILL NEEDS STRENGTHENING FOR GREATER EFFICIENCY; HE APPEALED TO TEACHERS AND ESPECIALLY MONKS TO HELP DEVELOP FANK BY VOLUNTEERING TO SERVE. (COMMENT: SOSTHENE TOOK OVER RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE GKR'S CONSCRIPTION EFFORT THIS WEEK AND USED THE NEW YEAR "ORDER" AS HIS OPENING GUN.)

4. PRIVATE JOURNALISTS BROKE THE GKR PRESS BAN WITH THE PUBLICATION OF TWO NEWSPAPERS TIMED TO COINCIDE WITH THE APRIL 12 EXPIRATION OF THE LAW DECLARING THE NATION IN DANGER. THE LAW, LAST RENEWED ON OCTOBER 12, 1973, WAS THE BASIS FOR SUSPENDING CONSTITUTIONAL GUARANTEES OF FREEDOM OF PRESS, ASSEMBLY, DOMICILE AND CORRESPONDENCE). THE DAILIES, NOKOR THOM AND ARYIATHOR WERE MILDLY ANTI-GOVERNMENT IN TONE. COMMENT: THE GKR HAS AN ABUNDANCE OF MEANS TO SUPPRESS PUBLICATIONS INCLUDING EXTENSION OF NATION IN DANGER LEGISLATION. SO FAR WE HAVE NO INDICATION THE GOVERNMENT PLANS TO DO SO ALTHOUGH THE REVIVED PRESS HAD FEW KIND WORDS FOR IT.

5. THE PHNOM PENH CURFEW WAS RELAXED AN HOUR ON APRIL 12. THE NEW HOURS ARE 2200-0500.

POLITICAL (EXTERNAL)

6. THE UNGA SPECIAL SESSION, WHICH BEGAN APRIL 9, HAS THUS FAR PRODUCED NO SIGNS OF A SERIOUS CHALLENGE TO GKR CREDENTIALS. GRUNK SUPPORTERS WILL UNDOUBTEDLY MAKE SOME CONFIDENTIAL

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RHETORICAL EFFORTS, BUT PRESENT INDICATIONS ARE THAT THEY WILL NOT PRESS THE ISSUE TO A VOTE. FOREIGN MINISTER KEUKY LIM LEFT FOR THE SESSION APRIL 16.

7. KOUN WICK, EX-FOREIGN MINISTER, IS IN PARIS MAKING ARRANGEMENTS FOR A TRIP TO AFRICA LATER THIS MONTH TO LAY THE GROUNDWORK FOR THE AFRICAN TOUR WHICH FOREIGN MINISTER KEUKY LIM PLANS TO MAKE IN JULY TO PLEAD THE GKR CAUSE.

8. LAOTIAN PRIME MINISTER SOUVANNA PHOUMA TOLD KEUKY LIM DURING THE LATTER'S RECENT VISIT TO VIENTIANE THAT IN VIEW OF THE CLOSE TIES BETWEEN THE LPF AND GRUNK, THE NEW LAOTIAN GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO SUPPORT THE GKR ON REPRESENTATION AT FUTURE INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS. IT DOES NOT APPEAR LIKELY, HOWEVER, THAT SOUVANNA WOULD GO SO FAR AS TO

AGREE TO RECOGNITION OF GRUNK.

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ISO-00 AID-20 OMB-01 DPW-01 IO-14

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RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 AF-10 DRC-01 SAM-01 EB-11

COME-00 TRSE-00 AGR-20 FEA-02 SCI-06 ACDA-19 /215 W

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P R 161215Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5781

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

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CINCPAC

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CINCUSARPAC
DIA WASHDC
CGFMFPAC
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7/13 AF
7TH PSYOPS
COMUSSAG
III MAF
CINCPACAF

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 PHNOM PENH 5393

GRUNK/FUNK

9. THE JOUSTING FOR POSITION AND PRESTIGE WITHIN GRUNK/
FUNK RANKS CONTINUED AS SIHANOUK PAID A "GOOD WILL VISIT" TO
PYONGYANG ONLY FOUR DAYS AFTER THE COMPLETION OF THE KHIEU
SAMPHAN SOJOURN IN THE NORTH KOREAN CAPITAL (SEE LAST WEEK'S
KHMER REPORT). IN CONTRAST TO HANOI AND PEKING, PYONGYANG
SEEMS TO HAVE GIVEN TOP BILLING TO SIHANOUK, WHO UNLIKE THE
"IN-COUNTRY LEADERSHIP" RATED A CHIEF OF STATE BANQUET HOSTED BY
KIM IL-SONG.

10. WARMING TO HIS NORTH KOREAN RECEPTION, SIHANOUK BESTED
HIS KC RIVALS IN BELLICOSITY AND BITTERNESS. HE CLAIMED U.S.
"IMPERIALISM/ IS CREATING A "UNIVERSE OF MISERIES", AND THAT
THEREFORE THE "ARMED STRUGGLE OF THE KHMER PEOPLE IS A MOST
IMPORTANT FACTOR IN SAVING THE UNIVERSE". HE STATED AGAIN THAT
GRUNK/FUNK WOULD NEVER NEGOTIATE WITH THE GKR OR THE "THIRD
FORCE" AND ALLEGED (ERRONEOUSLY AS FAR AS WE ARE ABL TO
ASCERTAIN) THAT KHIEU SAMPHAN HAD SAID THE SAME THING IN
PYONGYANG (SEE LAST WEEK'S KHMER REPORT CONCERNING THE DIVER-
GENCE BETWEEN THE TWO MEN'S STATEMENTS ON THIS ISSUE). THE
PRINCE ADMITTED THAT THE CPNLAF IS INCAPABLE OF ACHIEVING TOTAL
VICTORY DURING THE CURRENT DRY SEASON, DIFFERING AGAIN ON THIS
POINT FROM KHIEU SAMPHAN, WHO, WHILE MAKING NO SPECIFIC PREDIC-
TIONS, INDICATED AN EARLY VICTORY IS POSSIBLE. SIHANOUK DID ECHO
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KHIEU SAMPHAN'S DEMAND THAT THE U.S. WITHDRAW COMPLETELY FROM CAMBODIA SO THAT THE CAMBODIANS CAN SETTLE THEIR OWN PROBLEMS AS WELL AS HIS SENSITIVITY TO CHARGES THAT GRUNK/FUNK ARE CREATING OBSTACLES TO A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT.

11. MEANWHILE, THE "IN-COUNTRY" DELEGATION, POSSIBLY UN-DECIDED ABOUT ITS NEXT MOVE, IS PRESENTLY VISITING PROVINCIAL CHINA. ON APRIL 14, IT JOURNEYED TO SZECHWAN PROVINCE AND THE FOLLOWING DAY WENT ON TO CHUNGKING. FUNK RADIO HAS CITED THE CIVILTS MADE BY KHIEU SAMPHAN AND "WORLD TELEVISION" COVERAGE OF THEM IN REBUTTING "DECEPTIVE PROPAGANDA" THAT HE IS DEAD.

12. ON APRIL 9, SIHANOUK'S MOTHER, QUEEN KOSSOMAK, CELEBRATED HER 71ST BIRTHDAY AND RECEIVED MESSAGES OF CONGRATULATIONS FROM PENN NOUTH, KHIEU SAMPHAN, AND DUONG SAM OL. SIHANOUK ISSUED A MESSAGE ALSO ON THIS OCCASION, THANKING PRC DOCTORS FOR THE ALLEGED IMPROVEMENT IN HER CONDITION AND PLEDGING HER RETURN TO PHNOM PENH UPON ITS "LIBERATION" (THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE VERSION FROM PEKING ADDED "IF SHE IS STILL ALIVE"). UPON THE OCCASION OF THE NEW YEAR, PENN NOUTH PROMISED ANNIHILATION OF THE "TRAITORS" WITHIN THE "VERY NEAR FUTURE" AND CAST SCORN ON THE U.S. WHICH, HE ALLEGED, IS "BESEECHING" FOREIGN COUNTRIES TO "COAX" GRUNK/FUNK INTO RECONCILIATION WITH THE GKR.

13. ON INTERNAL ISSUES, FUNK RADIO ISSUED A SECOND "APPEAL" TO KAMPOT RESIDENTS TO ABANDON THE "TRAITORS" AND COME OVER TO THE "LIBERATED ZONE" (THE KR OF MARCH 12 REPORTED THE FIRST ONE), ALLEGED FALSELY THAT CPNLA ARTILLERY FIRING INTO PHNOM PENH ON APRIL 4 KILLED "ABOUT" FIFTY PRESIDENTIAL GUARDS AND DROVE LON NOL INTO HIS BUNKER, AND CONTINUED TO CLAIM THAT "TENS AND HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS" OF PEOPLE HAVE LEFT THE GKR SIDE.

14. SREY PONG, FORMER SECRETARY OF STATE IN THE MINISTRIES OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY, HAS BECOME THE EIGHTH IN THE SERIES OF RALLIES TO GRUNK/FUNK IN FRANCE (SEE LAST WEEK'S KHMER REPORT AND PREVIOUS). HE WAS REPORTED BY AKI AS HAVING ISSUED A STATEMENT IN PARIS ON MARCH 30 DENOUNCING THE GKR AND SUPPORTING GRUNK/FUNK.

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ECONOMIC

15. THE CALL FOR BIDS FOR DELIVERY OF PETROLEUM FUELS UNDER JUNE 1, 1974 - MAY 31, 1975 CONTRACTS BROUGHT SURPRISINGLY FAVORABLE RESPONSES. SHELL AND CALTEX OFFERED THE PHNOM PENH AREA (WHICH MUST ALLOT 10 PERCENT OF ITS PRODUCT TO KOMPONG SOM) AMOUNTS WHICH TOGETHER EXCEED

THE REQUIREMENTS STIPULATED IN THE CALL FOR BIDS. THE AMOUNTS OFFERED FOR THE BATTAMBANG ZONE, HOWEVER, WERE LESS THAN THE QUANTITIES REQUIRED. TO CORRECT THE SITUATION SHELL AND CALTEX OFFERED TO MAKE UP THE SHORTAGES FROM THE AMOUNTS WHICH THE TWO COMPANIES OFFERED IN EXCESS OF THE REQUIREMENTS FROM THE PHNOM PENH AREA AND DELIVER IT INTRANSIT THROUGH THAILAND.

16. NO POL CONVOYS TO BATTAMBANG HAVE BEEN MADE SINCE MARCH 30. THE NEXT ARRIVAL IS EXPECTED TO BE ON APRIL 20. THESE DELAYS IN DELIVERY ARE APPARENTLY THE RESULT OF THAI GOVERNMENT CONCERN THAT ITS OWN POL NEEDS BE SATISFIED BYFORE FURTHER TRANSIT OF POL CAN BE PERMITTED.

MILITARY

17. SUSTAINED ENEMY PRESSURE ALONG THE BASSAC SIX TO EIGHT KILOMETERS SOUTH OF PHNOM PENH FORCED EVACUATION OF SEVERAL FANK POSITIONS AND ALLOWED ENEMY ELEMENTS TO MOVE SUFFICIENTLY CLOSE TO THE CAPITAL TO FIRE 107MM ROCKETS AND 75MM ROUNDS INTO PHNOM PENH AND HER SOUTHERN SUBURB OF TAKHMAU. THE SHELLING WHICH OCCURRED ON THREE SECESSIVE DAYS OF THE KHMER NEW YEAR CELEBRATION KILLED FOUR AND WOUNDED 29 CIVILIANS. AS THE REPORTING PERIOD ENDED THE SECOND DIVISION LANCED CLEARING OPERATIONS ON BOTH SIDES OF THE BASSAC RIVER.

18. MILITARY ACTIVITY DECLINED MARKEDLY ELSEWHERE IN THE CAPITAL AREA, NOTABLY ON THE LOVEK, KOMPONG LUONG AND MEKONG EAST BANK BATTLEFIELDS, WHICH WERE CENTERS OF ENEMY ATTENTION IN PREVIOUS WEEKS.

19. THE KC CONTINUED TO PUT HEAVY PRESSURES ON KAMPOT'S DEFENDERS, WHO AT THE BEGINNING OF THE WEEK CEDED TO THE ENEMY
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A BIT MORE OF THE ENCLAVE'S NOW VERY LIMITED TERRAIN. AT THE END OF THE REPORTING PERIOD AFTER THE ARRIVAL OF MORE REINFORCEMENTS, FANK LAUNCHED AN OPERATION IN THE NORTH WHICH RESULTED IN THE RECAPTURE OF THE CITY'S RAILWAY STATION AND A 200 METER EXTENSION OF THE PERIMETER.

20. ON ROUTE 4 ENEMY FORCES HIT SOUTHWEST OF KOMPONG SPEU SEIZING CONTROL OF PHNOM SAMBOUR AND BRINGING ANOTHER 3 KILOMETERS OF THE HIGHWAY UNDER THEIR CONTROL. FANK TOOK 10 KILLED AND 30 WOUNDED IN THIS ACTION. ON ROUTE 5 ELEMENTS OF FANK'S 5TH BRIGADE FELL BACK TO A POSITION 2 KILOMETERS SOUTH OF KRUOS FOLLOWING KC ATTACKS ON APRIL 13. THE NORTHERNMOST FANK POSITION IS NOW LESS THAN 2 1/2 KILOMETERS FROM THE VITAL FANK POL DUMP AT PREK PHNOU.

21. FANK FORCES OPERATING IN THE KOMPONG TRAM AREA BETWEEN ROUTES 3 AND 4 REPORTED KILLING ABOUT 100 KC AND CAPTURING A LARGE NUMBER OF WEAPONS. ELSEWHERE IN THE PROVINCES FANK FORCES AT BOTH PREY VENG AND KOMPONG THOM THRUST DEEP OUTSIDE THEIR PERIMETERS INFLECTING SUBSTANTIAL CASUALTIES AND TAKING A NUMBER OF PRISONERS.

22. ON APRIL 13 ANOTHER LARGE MEKONG CONVOY ARRIVED IN PHNOM PENH FROM SOUTH VIET-NAM. IT SUSTAINED ONLY SLIGHT DAMAGE TO TWO VESSELS FROM SHORE FIRE. IT BROUGHT 24,000 TONS OF POL, RICE, AMMUNITION, MILITARY AND GENERAL CARGO.
DEAN

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